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Good morning.... Sources within the intelligence community say columnist Jack Anderson's attempt to link the CIA to an abortive attempt to assassinate Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi in 1984 was, at best, disingenuous. The CIA maintains liaison with the anti-Qaddafi National Front for the Salvation of Libya. The front is led by Mohamed Youssef Magarieff, Libya's former auditor general who defected in 1980. At the time, Mr. Magarieff, who had attended scores of secret meetings with Col. Qaddafi and his intelligence chiefs, described the Libyan colonel as "the world's most dangerous man." His principal obsession, he testified, was to obtain an atomic device and drop it on Tel Aviv. Mr. Magarieff was the man empowered to fund repeated assassination attempts against Anwar Sadat of Egypt and other moderate Arab leaders. At one point Mr. Magarieff was ordered to release "whatever it



Jack Anderson

takes to buy up all the food from Cairo's stores" with a view to provoking a revolutionary upheaval against Mr. Sadat. Col. Qaddafi was furious to learn that Libya did not have enough agents in Cairo to do the job. In his first interview after his defection, Mr. Magarieff said Col. Qaddafi was "mentally deranged" and that the world would be a very dangerous place with the likes of Col. Qaddafi in power. Mr. Magarieff vowed to overthrow his former boss and he was generously bankrolled by the Saudis.

The front has attracted several prominent Libyan defectors to its ranks, including former Libyan ambassadors to four countries. The front's first proclamation in 1981 called for Col. Qaddafi's violent overthrow. The CIA — and the rest of the world — knew that was Mr. Magarieff's stated goal. CIA agents had received orders to keep in close touch with him and did. Jack Anderson, say intelligence sources, extrapolated guilt by association into a CIA assassination plot.